FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 15, 1968

Mr. GEORGE W. LOENNEKE, 1390 Smythe, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department, and furnished the following information:

LOENNEKE stated that he is a Lieutenant at the Memphis Fire Department, and is regularly assigned to Fire Station Number 2, located at 471 South Main Street. He advised that he was on duty at this location on April 4, 1968. LOENNEKE stated that at approximately 6:00 p.m. on that date he was standing, looking through a peephole in a newspaper, which had been placed over the window on the rear door of the fire station. He stated that he was in the locker room at the rear of the station, and with him was a Negro police officer, Officer RICHMOND, and another fireman named WILLIAM KING.

LOENNEKE went on to state that as he approached his locker, which was to the right of the window, Officer RICHMOND called him and said, "DR. KING is fixing to leave his hotel room." LOENNEKE stated that he then asked Officer RICHMOND to let him look at KING, as LOENNEKE had not seen DR. KING for approximately two years. While LOENNEKE was looking through the peephole of the window, he saw DR. KING standing and leaning against the rail, looking down to the parking lot, saying something to another Negro male. Individuals by the name of RABY JESUS and Reverend BEVEL were standing to the extreme right of DR. KING. LOENNEKE stated that as DR. KING turned slowly to his left to say something to the individual below was when the shot was fired. LOENNEEE advised that it appeared to him as though DR. KING was looking at something or someone that fired the shot. LOENNEKE immediately turned to Police Officer RICHMOND, and stated, "DR. KING has been shot." He stated that Officer RICHMOND went in a state of shock at the sound of this news, and did not take any immediate action.

LOENNEKE stated that he then ran through the apparatus floor, telling other police officers that DR. KING had been shot. He then went through the lunchroom of the engine house telling

On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987-Sub D-53

SAs EDWARD M. QUINN
by SHIELDS W. SMITH / FDO:jms Date dictated 4/13/68

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the officers in that location that DR. KING had been shot. All police officers, upon hearing the news that DR. KING had been shot, immediately rushed out the door and proceeded in all directions in order to surround the motel in which DR. KING was staying.

LOENNEKE further advised that after he informed the police officers that DR. KING had been shot, he went out the front door of the station onto Main Street, but did not observe anyone running on Main Street or any pedestrian traffic whatsoever. In addition, he stated that he did not see a white Mustang on Main Street after the shooting nor did he hear the sound of an automobile leaving in a hurried manner.

LOENNEKE stated that while he was looking through the peephole, both before and immediately after DR. KING had been shot, he did not see any person on Mulberry Street wearing a light jacket or pull-over shirt with a hood on it. He stated that just prior to the time DR. KING was shot, two Negro females were standing on the second floor balcony, a short distance from DR. KING. LOENNEKE advised that at the time DR. KING was shot, these women started hollering in excitement, and appeared to be in a state of shock. He stated that both women, after realizing what had happened, then began to attempt to administer help to DR. KING. He also advised that there was a white man, without a suitcoat and wearing black horn-rimmed glasses, who approached the body of DR. KING, and then left to obtain more towels, which were being used to stop the blood coming from DR. KING's body, LOENNEKE stated that he had seen this white man previously that date with DR. KING, and assumed that he was in DR. KING's party. Approximately thirty seconds after the shot had been fired, a Negro male appeared on the balcony, and started taking photographs of DR. KING's body. LOENNEKE thought this odd at the time because the individual made no attempt to assist DR. KING, but was more concerned with the taking of the pictures.

LOENNEKE further stated that at the time the shot was fired, he saw only one man in the courtyard or parking lot beneath DR. KING's balcony, and this man he assumed was DR. KING's personal chauffeur.

LOENNEKE advised that to the best of his knowledge, the shot that was fired came from the left of the firehouse and from a position which could not be seen from the window from which

he was observing DR. KING. He stated that at no time did he see a white male running from the area, and could furnish no positive information concerning a possible suspect in this murder.

LOENNEKE advised that he was unable to furnish any additional information at this time.